

Books and the People Who Make Them

GORDON B. MOSS, who died on the afternoon of December 14, had been on the staff of *Books and the Book World* for some months and his cheerful and accurate reporting of new books, conducted under the shadow of an incurable illness, will be missed by our readers. Mr. Moss was 26 years old. He was the son of Henry E. Moss of Rutherford, N. J. He served on the staff of the *New York Tribune* for four years and later was on the staff of *THE EVENING SUN* until his health gave way in 1916.

London's literary world is about to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the publication house of John Murray. This ancient firm has had five John Murrys at its head, the first a naval officer and the fifth a Lieutenant-Colonel on active service.

George Gordon Byron once wrote the firm a letter that is now one of its most treasured possessions. It began thus:

"My dear Mr. Murray, you're in a damned hurry to set up that ultimate canto; but if they don't rob us you'll find Mr. Hobhouse will bring it in his port-manteau."

It must be confessed, though, that Byron also took a nasty fling at the old printing house when he wrote *Now Barabbas Was a Publisher*, a most unwarranted libel when the publishers' own liberal dealings with the poet are considered.

The Century Company will publish *The Aero Blue Book*, which will be somewhat like the *Automobile Blue Book*, and will contain besides airman's maps various aviation records, lists of trophies, information about air mail service, a directory of aeronautical associations, &c.

Frank R. Stockton, whom a good many people still believe to be the best humorist America has produced, sells as well as ever. The Century Company is printing an eleventh edition of *The Casting Away of Mrs. Lecks and Mrs. Alschine*.

When Irvin S. Cobb reached the evacuated town of Blerencourt he was struck by the model colony founded by American women of the American Fund for French Wounded. It made him think, he said, of Homedale-on-the-Sound, grafted upon a background of Louis the Grand. But he doesn't say which Grand.

George Haig Doran has gone to London and will probably proceed to Versailles to represent the publishing industry at the peace conference.

The Columbia University Press will publish the lectures on constitutional power and world affairs which ex-Senator George Sutherland of Utah is delivering at the university.

Two purposes will bring John Ayseough (the Right Rev. Mgr. Count Bickerstaff-Drew, Duke of Torre Mona) to New York next March: (1) to offer in person his thanks to the two American universities which have conferred honorary degrees on him, and (2) to begin here a lecture tour on literary subjects. The length of his stay is not yet fixed. John Ayseough is the author of several books—*French Widows* and *Jacqueline* and others. His latest novel, *San Celestino* will be published in America by G. P. Putnam's Sons.

Edward N. Teall, of the staff of *Books and the Book World*, is to leave the Princeton University Press and to become associated with the Marshall Jones Company of Boston in the book publishing business.

Ever since we went to the little red schoolhouse we have had it dinned into our ears that history repeats itself, but we regret to say that so far in our young life history has not repeated itself suffi-

Gilbert K. Chesterton



Caricature by K. A. Gumuchian.

ciently to enable us to put back a single leaf that we have taken out of *Nelson's Perpetual Loose Leaf Encyclopaedia*.

Both Christopher Morley and George Gordon were in New York last week. Morley's secret mission remains unrevealed, but Gordon, who is getting ready to write a book on *The Men Who Make Our Novels*, had a personal errand. His brother, an American aviator, was in the hospital at Ellis Island.

George H. Doran, who has a summer home on the Great South Bay four miles beyond *Books and the Book World's* outpost farthest East, is getting ready to publish a new novel by Ralph Connor. The Doran home at Bellport shelters Connor a fair part of the time. It's at Bellport, Long Island, where, with Edward Bok and Mary Roberts Rinehart, Mr. Doran composes the most important literary centre outside Port Washington, the habitat of Kathleen Norris.

Andre Fribourg, author of *The Flaming Crucible: The Faith of the Fighting Men*, which the Macmillan Company has just published, was so severely wounded that he retained just enough sight to distinguish day from darkness; his senses of taste and smell were lost.

Professor Fred Newton Scott of the University of Michigan has complained lately that William Lyon Phelps's books make his knees stiff. It appears that when a new book reaches Professor Scott he rips off the wrapping paper and begins to read, standing; and "if it is one of Professor Phelps's books I forget to sit down." Professor Phelps's books have many other curious effects on various readers and a careful clinical study would doubtless collect even more deplorable instances of the physical and mental havoc they have wrought.

Felix Riesenbergh, author of *Under Sail*, recently heard the fate of the A. J. Fuller, the fine American skysail yarder on which he served before the mast, the story of his experience making the content of his book. A reader of *Books and the Book World* wrote from Seattle enclosing newspaper clippings which told of the ramming and sinking of the Fuller by the Japanese freighter Mexico Maru near the Seattle waterfront. The Fuller, laden with canned salmon, could not be salvaged nor could her cargo. She lies in forty fathoms. Capt. Riesenbergh is now commander of the schoolship Newport.

By taking over from the Macmillan Company the first three volumes by Alfred Noyes published in this country—*Poem*, *The Golden Hynde* and *Flower of Old Japan*—the Frederiek A. Stokes Company becomes the poet's sole American publisher. Mr. Noyes is the author of eleven books of verse, of *Walking*

Shadows, sea tales of wartime, just published, and of *Open Boats*, true stories of submarine warfare. His *Collected Poems* (Stokes) contains in two volumes the contents of four of these earlier books as well as all of his shorter poems to 1913; it will, of course, be added to from time to time in fresh volumes uniformly bound.

Doubleday, Page & Company expect to have Joseph Conrad's new novel, *The Arrow of Gold*, ready the middle of January. In January they also plan to publish *The British Navy in Battle*, by the naval expert Arthur Pollen; Brig-Gen. A. W. Catlin's *With the Help of God and a Few Marines* (Gen. Catlin was Colonel of the Sixth Regiment of Marines), and William Roseco Thayer's book of war essays and articles *Volley from a Non-combatant*.

Books Not Received

By O. COB.

COMMON SENSE: Its Cause and Cure. By Gilbert K. Chesterton. *The Evolution of My Personal Modesty.* By George Moore.

Books I Have Never Read. By William Marion Reedy.

My Four Years With Gott. By William Hohenzollern.

The Poetry of Harry Kemp. By Al Jolson.

The Elements, Growth, Evolution and Degustation of the Mint Julep. By Harry Kemp.

How to Acquire All Rights (including "Movie" Rights) to the Seven Arts. By James Huneker.

How to Make Words Look Like Ideas. By Robert W. Chambers.

Why I Left Mars for a Schoolroom. By H. G. Wells.

Rabelais (unexpurgated). Translated by Mrs. Humphry Ward.

The Elements of Sanity. By Gertrude Stein.

From Here to There: With Addenda Concerning the That. By Lord Dunsany.

The Poetry of Amy Lowell. By E. Bok.

The Wit and Wisdom of Theodore Dreiser. By André Tridon.

Mencken: A Book of Nathans. By Philip Goodman.

Tales of the Brevoort. By Joseph Hergersheimer.

Man and Supper-man. By Carlo de Fornaro.

Byrdie Cohen: Cloak Model. By Thomas Hardy.

My Incurable Versatility. By Don Marquis.

Psychoanalysis as Applied to Mineral Waters. By Booth Tarkington.

The Influence of Vegetables on the Paradox. By George Bernard Shaw.

The Smiling Philosopher. By Maxim Gorky.

Our Delivery System in Mars. By George Horace Lorimer.

Conversations with Col. House. By Madame Pyramide Sphinx.

An Analysis of Silence. By Theodore Roosevelt.

Scandals of the Great White Way. By Frank O'Malley.

Why Storms Should Stop Brewing. By William Sunday.

Confessions of an Ex-Pan-Britisher. By Rudyard Kipling.

Two Leading Christmas Gift Books

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By MARY E. WALLER

Author of "The Wood-carver of Lympus"

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"Mr. Farnol has seldom written in a happier vein."—*Boston Transcript*.

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